

AIRGRAM**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION****AIRGRAM**

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Senator Burke B. Hickenlooper**REFERENCE - **ICATO CIRC A-37, August 7, 1956**
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PAGE 1	OF 2
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Senator Hickenlooper visited Taiwan August 5 to 8, enroute to Seoul for the inauguration of President Rhee. While state telegrams informing of his pending visit specified certain areas of interest (American relations with Far East Governments; Chinese Communist relations and allegiance of Overseas Chinese), the Senator's interests actually appeared considerably wider in scope and covered the entire program of the U.S. agencies here, including the Mission program.

Considerable opportunities developed for discussion with Mission officers on general economic development and the Senator seemed pleased with progress. He raised rather strongly the contention that U.S. aid to revenue-producing projects should be repaid in U.S. dollars; however, upon fuller explanation by Mission officers of the foreign exchange difficulties of the Republic of China at present and in the foreseeable future, he volunteered that this was a "special problem" country requiring exceptional treatment. In any event, he said he was not in favor of driving hard bargains on this matter but only in making it clear that aid which increased a country's or industry's revenue should be repaid in U.S. dollars even if over a long period of time.

In addition to an audience with President Chiang, Senator Hickenlooper x had the opportunity for informal discussions on economic affairs with Governor C. K. Yen, on Overseas Information problems with Information Director Sampson Shen, Finance Minister P. Y. Hsu and with other Chinese officials.

In general the Senator's visit and general approach was a relaxed one and he seemed to have no special subject of interest

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in the operations on Taiwan. As he was not feeling too well, his schedule was kept to a non-maximum level at his request, and no field trips were included. Material furnished to his aide, Mr. Valeo, consisted of copy of "Economic Development on Taiwan, 1951-55" (copies available in ICA/W) and graph charts of industrial and agricultural production, the general aid program, commercial procurement, etc. (Revisions of these charts to update them are now in process and it is planned to send revised copies to ICA/W for the Senator's use as soon as completed. Extra copies will be supplied for ICA/W use.)

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